

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01721 221528Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----221538Z 040281 /46
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3210

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US
SUBJ: GUIDANCE FOR MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MENGISTU

REF: STATE 62081

1. I AM TROUBLED WITH DEPT'S FORMULATION OF POINTS RE
ERITREA AND TFAI (PARAS 7 AND 8 OF REFTTEL) AND THEREFORE
WISH SUGGEST POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR DEPT'S CONSIDERATION:

A. STATEMENT THAT U.S. ARMS ARE BEING USED TO DENY
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO ERITREAN POPULATION IS MORE SWEEPING
THAN FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM HERE WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE.
THERE NO DENYING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ACTS OF REPRISAL,
BUT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, THOSE CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE AS
INDISCRIMINATE RETALIATION FOR SUCH ACTS AS ASSASSINATION
HAVE BEEN FEW FOR MANY MONTHS NOW. APART FROM THESE,
ERITREA IS IN A CIVIL WAR SITUATION AND I PRESUME THAT
FOR MOST PART ACTIONS TAKEN IN COURSE OF BATTLE ARE
NOT WHAT DEPT HAD IN MIND ALTHOUGH EVEN THESE KINDS
OF INCIDENTS DO NOT COME TO MIND IN NUMBER IN RECENT
MONTHS.

B. WE HAVE NOT HITHERTO INDICATED THAT ERITREAN
NEGOTIATION WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS AND AUTONOMY IS OUR
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PREFERRED SOLUTION. ON CONTRARY, ASST SECRETARY
SCHAUFLE WAS QUOTED IN INTERVIEW MAR 11 BY ROSS
CHOMIAK WHICH APPEARED IN MAR 12 WIRELESS FILE AS
SAYING "ON ERITREA WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT
OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. WE ARE VERY UNHAPPY THAT
THIS HAS NOT PROVED FEASIBLE, AT LEAST NOT UNTIL NOW.
WE STILL THINK THAT IS THE BEST SOLUTION. WHETHER

THEN WE GET INTEGRATION IN ETHIOPIA, AUTONOMY OR
FEDERATION -- WE ARE NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT IT, AS
LONG AS AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED AND IS SELF-
ENFORCING." SCHAUFLE FORMULATION AVOIDS ANY SUGGESTION
OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND FROM OUR POINT
OF VIEW, I WOULD PREFER USE IT RATHER THAN COME DOWN
ON SIDE OF ONE PARTICULAR SOLUTION.

C. TFAI - I AM NOT SURE I FULLY UNDERSTAND
DEPT'S POINT IN REGRETTING LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTA-
TIONS CONCERNING DJIBOUTI SINCE AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S
DAY. WHILE IT CERTAINLY TRUE THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TFAI WITH PMAC ITSELF SINCE
THEN, AND CAN NEVER BE SURE HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE SAY TO
MOFA REACHES PMAC, I DO NOT RECALL ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO
CONSULT WITH EPMG, EVEN WITH MOFA, ON TFAI. WE HAVE
NONETHELESS RAISED TFAI ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH MOFA,
INCLUDING DURING SEELYE VISIT, AND EACH TIME MOFA HAS
RESPONDED FAIRLY FREELY AND OPENLY. WE HAVE SEEN TO
IT THAT EPMG IS AWARE OF SUCH POLICY STATEMENTS ON
TFAI AS WE HAVE MADE, AND SEELYE INQUIRED AS TO HOW
MOFA THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL. TO MAKE THIS PARTICU-
LAR POINT, THEREFORE, I BELIEVE WOULD PUZZLE ETHIOPIANS
SINCE IT SUGGESTS AN ELEMENT OF IMPLIED CRITICISM THAT
I FEEL THEY WOULD CONSIDER UNWARRANTED.

2. I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT FIRST SENTENCE PARA 8 BE
DROPPED FROM PRESENTATION AND THAT WE USE SCHAUFLE
STATEMENT MAR 11 ON ERITREA IN PLACE OF EXPRESSION
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FAVORING A PARTICULAR SOLUTION. RE PARA 1 (A) ABOVE,
I SUGGEST A FORMULA THAT SAYS THERE HAS BEEN GROWING
PUBLIC CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES OVER THE USE OF
U.S. ARMS IN THE CIVIL STRIFE IN ERITREA, PARTICULARLY
WHEN IT BRINGS SUFFERING TO CIVILIAN NON-COMBATANTS.
WE RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF A GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ITS
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, BUT CONTINUE STRONGLY TO FAVOR
A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION (USING ESSENCE OF SCHAUFLE STATE-
MENT ABOVE TO COMPLETE THE THOUGHT). THIS WOULD SEEM
BE CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS PRESS GUIDANCE (76 STATE
116687) AND THE MOST RECENT PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF OUR
POSITION. I RECOGNIZE THIS FORMULA AVOIDS REFERENCE
TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT SUGGEST THAT DIRECT REFERNECE
NOT LIKELY BE HELPFUL IN CONTEXT OF THIS DISCUSSION
(UNLESS ASKED), AND THAT EPMG, WHICH ALREADY VERY AWARE
OF OUR POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL GET POINT WITHOUT
EXPLICITLY MENTIONING IT.
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